

1 **MCGUIREWOODS LLP**
2 DELEYLA A. LAWRENCE (SBN 284562)
3 1800 Century Park East, 8th Floor
4 Los Angeles, CA 90067
5 Telephone: 310.315.8200
6 Facsimile: 310.315.8210
7 dlawrence@mcguirewoods.com

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10 Attorneys for Defendant Bank of America, N.A.

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AIMEE AQUITANIA,
Plaintiff,
vs.
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.
Defendants.

CASE NO. CV18-09215 CBM-SSx

**ORDER GRANTING AMENDED
STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

**Discovery Document: Referred to
Magistrate Judge Suzanne H. Segal**

Complaint Filed: October 26, 2018

1 Plaintiff Aimee Aquitania (“Plaintiff”) on the one hand, and Defendant Bank
2 of America, N.A. (“BANA” or “Defendant”) (collectively, the “Parties”), in order to
3 facilitate the exchange of information and documents which may be subject to
4 confidentiality limitations on disclosure due to federal laws, state laws, and privacy
5 rights, and in order to secure the entry of a protective order limiting the review,
6 copying, dissemination and filing of confidential and/or proprietary documents and
7 information to be produced by the Parties and their respective counsel or by any non-
8 party in the course of discovery in this matter to the extent set forth below, the Parties,
9 through their respective counsel of record, hereby provide the following Stipulated
10 Protective Order (“Order”) as follows:

11 1. **A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

12 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,
13 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
14 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be
15 warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter
16 the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order
17 does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and
18 that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the
19 limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the
20 applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section
21 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file
22 confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures
23 that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks
24 permission from the court to file material under seal.

25 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

26 This action is likely to involve BANA’s highly confidential account records
27 and servicing notes related to the subject account. BANA cannot provide such
28 information without a protective order because its account records and servicing

1 notes are proprietary in nature, not publically available, and deserve protection from
2 unfettered dissemination by parties to this litigation. Such confidential and
3 proprietary materials and information consist of, among other things, confidential
4 business or financial information, information regarding confidential business
5 practices, or other confidential research, development, or commercial information
6 (including information implicating privacy rights of third parties), information
7 otherwise generally unavailable to the public, or which may be privileged or
8 otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal statutes, court rules, case
9 decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to
10 facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery
11 materials, to adequately protect information the parties are entitled to keep
12 confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of
13 such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling
14 at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such
15 information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the parties that information
16 will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so
17 designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential,
18 non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of the public
19 record of this case.

20 2. DEFINITIONS

21 2.1 Action: this pending federal lawsuit.

22 2.2 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation
23 of information or items under this Order.

24 2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of
25 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
26 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in the
27 Good Cause Statement.

1 2.4 Counsel: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
2 their support staff).

3 2.5 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
4 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
5 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

6 2.6 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless
7 of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
8 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or
9 generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

10 2.7 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
11 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
12 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

13 2.8 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
14 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
15 counsel.

16 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
17 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

18 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party
19 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have
20 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which
21 has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

22 2.11 Party: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
23 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
24 support staffs).

25 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
26 Discovery Material in this Action.

27 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support
28 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or

1 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
2 and their employees and subcontractors.

3 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
4 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

5 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
6 from a Producing Party.

7 3. SCOPE

8 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
9 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
10 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
11 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
12 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

13 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
14 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

15 4. DURATION

16 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
17 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
18 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
19 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action, with
20 or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
21 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
22 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
23 pursuant to applicable law.

24 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

25 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.
26 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under
27 this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that
28 qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for

1 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
2 communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents, items,
3 or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably
4 within the ambit of this Order.

5 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
6 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
7 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose
8 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating
9 Party to sanctions.

10 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
11 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
12 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

13 **5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations**. Except as otherwise provided in
14 this Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
15 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
16 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
17 produced.

18 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

19 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic
20 documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial
21 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend
22 "CONFIDENTIAL" (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that
23 contains protected material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page
24 qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected
25 portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

26 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
27 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
28 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and

1 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
2 deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has identified the documents
3 it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which documents,
4 or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing
5 the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL
6 legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions
7 of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must
8 clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the
9 margins).

10 (b) for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party identify
11 the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition
12 all protected testimony.

13 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
14 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the
15 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
16 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
17 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
18 portion(s).

19 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
20 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
21 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such material.
22 Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable
23 efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this
24 Order.

25 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

26 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
27 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
28 Scheduling Order.

1 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
2 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

3 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
4 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose
5 (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may
6 expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived
7 or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to afford the
8 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing
9 Party's designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

10 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

11 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
12 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
13 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
14 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
15 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
16 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
17 DISPOSITION).

18 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
19 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
20 authorized under this Order.

21 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
22 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
23 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
24 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

25 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well
26 as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary
27 to disclose the information for this Action;

28 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the

1 Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

2 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom
3 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the
4 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

5 (d) the court and its personnel;

6 (e) court reporters and their staff;

7 (f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional

8 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have
9 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

10 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
11 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

12 (h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the
13 Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party
14 requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will
15 not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the
16 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise
17 agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
18 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be
19 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as
20 permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

21 (i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel,
22 mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

23 **PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED**
24 **IN OTHER LITIGATION**

25 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
26 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
27 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

28 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall

1 include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

2 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
3 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena
4 or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of
5 this Stipulated Protective Order; and

6 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued
7 by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

8 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
9 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
10 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
11 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
12 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
13 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
14 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
15 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

16 **9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**
17 **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

18 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a
19 Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
20 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
21 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
22 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

23 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to
24 produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is
25 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s
26 confidential information, then the Party shall:

27 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-
28 Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality

1 agreement with a Non-Party;

2 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
3 Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably
4 specific description of the information requested; and

5 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the
6 Non-Party, if requested.

7 (c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within
8 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party
9 may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery
10 request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall
11 not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the
12 confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.
13 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense
14 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

15 10. **UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

16 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed
17 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this
18 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in
19 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts
20 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or
21 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,
22 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and
23 Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

24 11. **INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE**
PROTECTED MATERIAL

26 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
27 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,
28 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil

1 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure
2 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior
3 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the
4 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or
5 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the
6 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted
7 to the court.

8 12. **MISCELLANEOUS**

9 12.1 **Right to Further Relief**. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
10 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

11 12.2 **Right to Assert Other Objections**. By stipulating to the entry of this
12 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
13 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this
14 Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any
15 ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

16 12.3 **Filing Protected Material**. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
17 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material may
18 only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
19 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
20 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
21 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

22 13. **FINAL DISPOSITION**

23 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
24 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return
25 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this
26 subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,
27 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
28 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving

1 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
2 person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies
3 (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or
4 destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,
5 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any
6 of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
7 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing
8 transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert
9 reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such
10 materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies that contain or
11 constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in
12 Section 4 (DURATION).

13 14. Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
14 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
15 sanctions.

16 15. The Parties and all signatories to the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
17 Bound” (Exhibit A) agree to be bound by this Stipulation and Protective Order
18 pending its approval and entry by the Court. In the event that the Court modifies this
19 Stipulation and Protective Order, or in the event that the Court enters a different
20 Protective Order, the Parties agree to be bound by this Stipulation and Protective
21 Order until such time as the Court may enter such a different Order. It is the Parties’
22 intent to be bound by the terms of this Stipulation and Protective Order pending its
23 entry so as to allow for immediate production of Confidential Materials under the
24 terms herein. Said Certifications shall be in the form and language as set forth on the
25 form attached as Exhibit A.

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1 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.
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5 DATED: December 28, 2018
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10 /s/ Brian Brazier
11 PRICE LAW GROUP, APC
12 Brian Brazier
13 Attorneys for Plaintiff Aimee Aquitania
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15 DATED: December 28, 2018
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19 /s/ Deleyla A. Lawrence
20 MCGUIREWOODS LLP
21 Deleyla A. Lawrence
22 Attorneys for Defendant Bank of America, N.A.
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25 FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.
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28 DATED: 1/02/19
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10 Hon. Suzanne H. Segal
11 United States District/Magistrate Judge
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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on [date] in the case of _____ **[insert formal name of the case and the number and initials assigned to it by the court]**. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order. I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

22 | Date: _____

23 | City and State where sworn and signed: _____

25 Printed name:

27 | Signature: _____